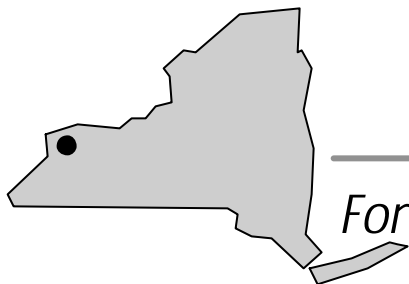




US Army Corps
of Engineers®



LOOW Fact Sheet

Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works Niagara County, New York

Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites • June 2001

This fact sheet has been prepared to address community outreach needs and is consistent with provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Fact sheets are one part of an effort to provide public information on environmental restoration and waste management.

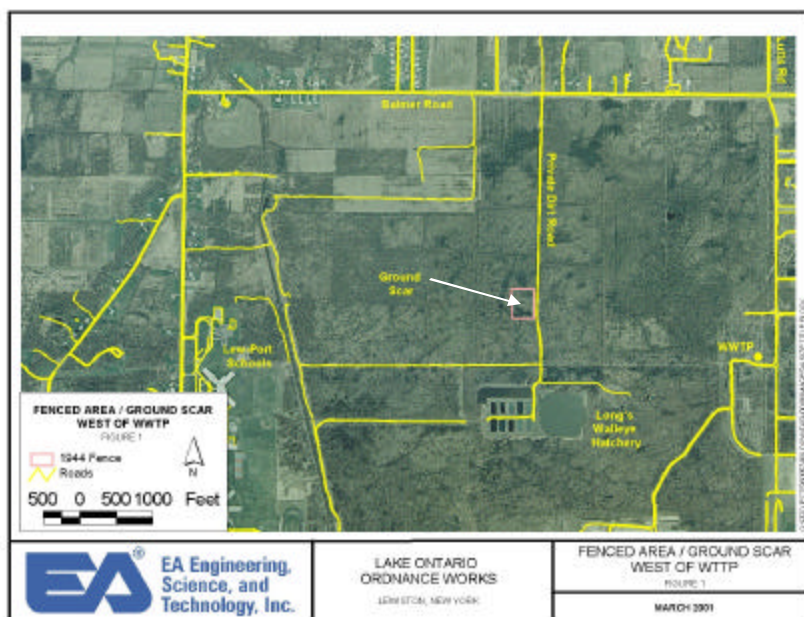
The purpose of this fact sheet is to clarify information regarding soil sampling conducted during the remedial investigation of the former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW) and explain the significance of the findings. The sampling in this area detected concentrations of explosives. The Corps will continue to investigate this area.

Background

The US Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a remedial investigation of the former LOOW located in Lewiston-Porter, New York. The purpose of the investigation is to determine whether past Department of Defense activities resulted in contamination of the LOOW property and to determine the nature and extent of any contamination found. Using the data from this investigation, the Corps of Engineers will then conduct risk assessments to quantify whether human health and the environment are at risk.

Location

The area sampled is shown in the figure below, the specific area is boxed and labeled “Ground Scar”. The area is located approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of Balmer Road, west of the Chemical Waste Management property.



(over)

Sampling

Based on conversations held during the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings for the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works (LOOW), a review of the 1938, 1944, and 1956 aerial photographs of the LOOW area was performed in 2001. During the review, an area was discovered that appeared to be fenced and in-use in the 1944 photograph. This fenced area did not appear in the aerial photograph from 1938. Due to the time frame in which the fenced area appeared, it is probable that the area was constructed as part of the LOOW. A subsequent photograph from 1956 indicates what appears to be storage activities and ground scarring.

The investigation included a survey of available records, and sample collection and analysis.

Ten sampling locations were selected. Two soil samples were collected from each location; one at 0-0.5 feet below ground surface and from various deeper levels up to 25 feet below ground surface. The samples were tested for explosive compounds, volatile organic compounds, metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and pesticides/PCBs.

Results

The sample results showed trace levels of Dinitrotoluene, and Trinitrotoluene (TNT) exceeding the test plan's stringent screening criteria.

Significance

The levels detected do not present an explosive hazard because TNT will not detonate at these concentrations.

Conclusions

The Corps will continue to investigate this area. Future investigations will include a Risk Assessment which includes an assessment of possible risk to human health and the environment. The remedial investigation of the former LOOW is ongoing and the US Army Corps of Engineers will continue to provide full disclosure of information as it becomes available and of future actions at the site.

Additional information on the LOOW site may be found in the Lewiston and Youngstown public libraries and on the Buffalo District's LOOW website: www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/loow.

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